

APPENDIX XI

Reports on the Activities of the Regional Records Survey Committees during 1977-78

Reports received from the Regional Records Survey Committees on the Survey of records in private custody during 1977-78 are summarised below :

Andhra Pradesh : The Historical Documents Purchase Committee of the Regional Historical Records Survey Committee held its meeting on 19th December, 1977 and recommended the purchase of rare manuscripts, documents and books, which were later purchased from eight different individuals.

The tenure of the Regional Historical Records Survey Committee expired on 22nd February, 1978. The proposal to reconstitute the Committee has been forwarded to the state Government and orders are awaited.

Arunachal Pradesh : The Regional Records Survey Committee has not yet been reconstituted.

Assam : The second and third meetings of the Regional Records Survey Committee were held on 19th January, 1977 and 28th April, 1978 respectively. The committee resolved to publish a report on its annual activities. The survey work was mostly carried out in Darrang, Goalpara, Kamrup and Nowgong districts where large number of old and rare manuscript, documents, stamps, photographs, seals and paintings, inscriptions on old cannons and copper plates were examined. The committee also decided to make a thorough survey of all the Zamindari papers of Assam. The committee surveyed and listed valuable Badshahi Sanads belonging to ex-Raja of Gauripur Estate. It also surveyed Bijni Estate Records. Some copper plates issued by Ahom Kings in connection with land grants etc. to Brahmins were found in the districts of Darrang, Nowgong and Kamrup. Besides, a number of Badshahi Sanads were examined at Gauripur and Dhubri in Goalpara District including a sanad issued by Badshah Ghazi Aurangzeb in 1667 A.D. Some historical documents in the possession of Sri Prakritish Chandra Barua were also examined.

Bihar : The Darbhanga Raj Archives has been taken over by the Bihar State Archives and an advisory Committee for the development of Raj Archives has been constituted which includes Director of Archives, Government of India also as one of the members. One of the important documents unearthed in the Darbhanga Raj Archives is the original draft of Rules of the Indian Union.

Delhi : The Regional Records Survey Committee was reconstituted on 22nd April, 1978. The Meetings of the committee were held on 8th February, 1977 and 13th January, 1978, wherein the need for the early construction of the building for Delhi Archives was greatly emphasised.

The committee kept up the work regarding survey and listing of important historical records in private custody and completed the descriptive listing of records of four religious institutions including the records of Digamber Jain Mandir, Khajoor Ki Masjid, Dharampura, Delhi. Besides, acquiring nearly 3,000 documents in original, they also managed to acquire some documents of later Mughal period which throw light on the history of Delhi.

Further the committee stressed the need to get the pre-independence records of Delhi Municipal Corporation transferred to Delhi Archives.

Goa : At present there is no Regional Records Survey Committee. However, it is claimed that Goa Archives has been receiving manuscripts, documents, records and rare books from private parties as donation.

Gujarat : The tenure of the Regional Records Survey Committee has been extended upto 25th September, 1980. The proposal to include some new members has also been submitted to the State Government for consideration.

The second meeting of the committee was held on 22nd September, 1977 under the Chairmanship of Shri Navalbhai Shah, State Education Minister. The Committee discussed question of advisability or otherwise of purchasing rare and old historical documents from private individuals and institutions and in case where the owners were reluctant to part with them, to make efforts to persuade such owners to allow photostat copies of microfilms of the documents to be taken. It was further decided to invoke the help and cooperation of the universities and other educational institutions to accelerate the survey work and to engage Modi and Persian knowing persons for preparing index, abstracts or descriptive lists so that scholars might know the records and their contents.

Haryana : The tenure of the Regional Records Survey Committee expired on 14th March, 1977 and it is yet to be reconstituted. The earlier committee however, could not make much progress regarding survey and listing of private records.

Jammu and Kashmir : The Regional Records Survey Committee conducted extensive survey work during the period under report, for salvaging the documents of archival and historical value in Srinagar city and other adjoining areas and nearly 8,000 papers were listed. Some important letters issued by Mughal Emperors (Aurangzeb onwards) to various Jagirdars, leading personages of Kashmir were salvaged. Besides, some important non-archival documents and rare books were also surveyed and listed and 150 manuscripts, documents, rare and out of print books were also acquired by purchase.

Karnataka : The Regional Records Survey Committee was reconstituted on 6th August, 1977. It held its first meeting on 4th November, 1977 and decided to take up the work regarding survey and acquisition of Historical documents relating to monasteries, temples and churches, former chieftains and rulers of erstwhile states in Karnataka and the records of Mysore palace. No survey work has however been made yet.

Kerala : The Regional Records Survey Committee has since been reconstituted. The committee did undertake the survey work and as per

last information received in this Department till December, 1977 no records important enough to be listed were found.

Madhya Pradesh : The Regional Records Survey Committee was re-constituted on 29th August, 1977. No survey work during the period could be done.

Maharashtra : The Regional Records Survey Committee has not yet been reconstituted. However, State Board for Archives and Archaeology has been reconstituted to discharge these functions.

The State Archives Department continued listing of Holkar Records brought from Chandwa. This collection comprises of 269 bundles, each bundle containing about 1,000 documents.

Orissa : During the period under report the committee surveyed private records in Balasori, Cuttack, Parlakimedi (in Ganjam Distt.) Puri, Barpali (in Sambalpur Distt.) and Bhubaneswar areas. Steps were also taken for survey and listing of private records in the custody of ex-Rajas and Zamindars of Orissa and also records in the possession of Sebayats of Lord Jagannath Temple, Puri. Documents pertaining to ex-Mohuri Estate in Ganjam Distt. and Qadam Rasool in Cuttack were also listed which throw light on the history of Mohuri Estate. In addition to this some old and rare documents were also deciphered.

Punjab : The Regional Records Survey Committee has not yet been reconstituted. The State Archives, however, took up the work regarding survey and listing of records in private custody.

Rajasthan : The Regional Records Survey Committee besides maintaining correspondence and personal contacts, also decided to seek co-operation of the teachers and principals of schools and colleges in the work connected with survey of records in private custody. An appeal was issued by the State Education Minister in this respect.

During the period under report the Committee carried out survey work in the areas of Alwar, Bikaner, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota and Udaipur.

Sikkim : The State Archives has been started recently and the matter regarding the constitution of the R.R.S.C. is under the consideration of the State Government.

Tamil Nadu : The Regional Records Survey Committee for survey of historical records is yet to be reconstructed. No survey work was undertaken during the period.

Tripura : The committee has not sent any report so far regarding the progress of survey and listing of private records.

Uttar Pradesh : The Regional Records Survey Committee was constituted on 10th January, 1978, for a period of three years.

The Committee did useful survey work and also listed certain documents, mostly from Lucknow area. These comprise farmans (original as well as copies) issued by Mughal Emperors, besides *Bainams*, *chaknamas*, *ikrarnames*, *mahzars*, *qabuliatnamas*, *rahannamas* and various other documents.

West Bengal : The R.R.S.C. is yet to be reconstituted. No survey work therefore could be done during the period.